



**COMMITTEE ON DENTAL AUXILIARIES**  
**THE DENTAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA**  
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**Committee on Dental Auxiliaries**  
**Public Meeting Minutes**  
**Sacramento, California**  
**August 16, 2006**

A called public meeting of The Committee on Dental Auxiliaries (COMDA) was held August 16, 2006 in the State Capitol Room 112. Due notice had been sent to all known interested parties.

**1. Call to order/Member roll call**

Chairperson Shanda Wallace called the meeting to order at 1:32 PM. A quorum was established with the following members present:

Shanda Wallace, RDH  
Linda Gipson, RDH  
William Baker,  
Teresita Churchill, RDA  
Sonia Molina, DDS

**2. Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Baker moved and Dr. Molina seconded approval of the April 7, 2006 open session minutes. The motion passed 5-0.

**3. Chairperson's Report**

Ms. Wallace noted the importance of having a quorum in order to conduct business and thanked all participants for adjusting their schedules to accommodate this second August meeting.

**4. Report of the Executive Officer**

Elizabeth Ware, Executive Officer (EO), directed attention to her written report that was presented at the August 2 meeting and offered to answer questions.

**5. RDA Program**

RDA licensing and examination statistics were reviewed. Lori Hubble, Examination Coordinator, presented an assessment of the May 6 and 7 RDA Practical Examination that was held in Los Angeles. This review revealed that income from examination fees was sufficient to cover both the immediate and long-term costs associated with developing and administering the examination.

Lorie Kiley, who had been on the job for one month as RDA Program Coordinator, reported her findings regarding the RDA educational program and course approval process. Her preliminary assessment was that there were many applications for program and course approval pending. She reported that it takes approximately three to four months for a program application to be approved when it is received complete and there are no deficiencies. Ms. Kiley emphasized the need to recruit additional consultants to assist with the review and inspection components of this process. She asked the Committee to officially declare that there is a significant backlog and that schools submitting application for program and course approval should understand that any expectation of an expedited approval process is unrealistic at this time.

Ms. Kiley also advised the Committee that current language in the statute exempts schools that are accredited by various bodies from paying the program or course approval application fee. Section 1725(k) provides an application fee of not more than \$1,400 for program approval and Section 1725(l) allows a fee of not more than \$300 for radiation safety course approval. Presently, all applications submitted are exempt from these fees. Current program approval costs are approximately \$6,650 per program while the cost to approve a course is estimated to be approximately \$1,550. She recommended a change in statute to eliminate the exemptions, noting that the number of program and course applications has increased substantially in recent years and further increases are expected to result from implementation of SB 1546. Discussion ensued.

Ms. Kiley presented results of application reviews for three schools. Recommendation for approval of the following RDA programs was moved by Ms. Gipson and seconded by Mr. Baker. The motion carried.

- Maric College, Fresno: provisional approval
- Maric College, Bakersfield: provisional approval
- Western Career College, Antioch: provisional approval

## **6. RDH Program**

RDH licensing and examination statistics were reviewed. Ms. Ware reported on observing the RDH clinical and supplemental written examinations held in July in San Francisco. She recommended combining the written supplemental law and ethics examinations, currently administered separately, into one examination. She also suggested offering it via computer administered testing, rather than asking applicants to take it as a paper and pencil examination on the same day they take the clinical examination. These steps would make examination administration less wasteful, more efficient and more convenient for both staff and applicants. This would also increase applicant accessibility since computerized administration of the exam may be arranged by appointment at any of 24 testing centers located throughout the state. Ms. Churchill moved and Dr. Molina seconded combining the questions from the law and ethics written supplemental examinations for administration as one examination. The motion carried.

Mr. Baker moved and Ms. Gipson seconded exploration of moving from pencil and paper testing to computerized administration of the combined law and ethics supplemental written examination, utilizing the current DCA testing contractor. The motion carried.

Lori Hubble, Examination Coordinator, presented an assessment of the June 3 and 4 RDH Examination that was held in Los Angeles. This review revealed that no fee is presently charged for the supplemental written examinations and that income from clinical examination fees was not sufficient to cover even the direct costs of administering the examination.

Mr. Baker moved and Dr. Molina seconded that staff be directed to explore all current examination fees to ensure that they cover costs of administration and recommend cost resolution to establish a revised fee schedule. Discussion ensued and the motion carried.

## **7. Legislation and Regulations**

### AB1334: RDHAP scope of practice

Ms. Ware reported that COMDA initially proposed the concept of eliminating the prescription requirement for RDHAPs, but the Dental Board opposed it. The California Dental Hygienists Association (CDHA) moved forward with the legislation, which is supported by the California Primary Care Association. She reported that the bill was progressing through the Legislature. The committee directed staff to prepare a letter of support for this bill.

### SB1541: Work experience pathway for RDA specialty licensure

Ms. Ware reported that this bill, sponsored by the CDA and supported by the Dental Board, would establish on the job training experience pathways to licensure as a Registered Restorative Assistant (RRA), Registered Orthodontic Assistant (ROA), or Registered Surgery Assistant (RSA), specialties that will be created with implementation of SB 1546 on January 1, 2008. Discussion centered on a number of issues including examination development, concern about the elimination of any coursework requirement, adequate fees for examinations, designation of the Dental Assisting National Board (DANB) as the source for written examinations, and requirements for dentists offering training to staff members. Ms. Ware noted that the bill was progressing smoothly through the legislative process.

Dr. Molina moved and Ms. Churchill seconded that COMDA approach the bill's sponsor requesting amendments that would delete the fee exemption for RDA program and course approvals. The motion carried, with one abstention. In subsequent discussion, the sponsor declined to approach the author with such an amendment at that point in the legislative process.

Mr. Baker moved that COMDA take a position of **oppose** on SB 1541. The motion was seconded and carried 3-1 with one abstention.

Proposed regulations to implement SB 1546 re dental assisting scopes of practice, new programs and courses

Proposed regulations to implement SB 1546 were discussed and it was agreed that there was too much to be accomplished for implementation of this law when it goes into effect January 1, 2008. A good portion of the regulations necessary for implementation of the new law has already been developed and approved by COMDA, however during a recent meeting with staff counsel, six additional regulations needed to complete the package were identified. It was agreed that the task force that was created to aid this process should meet once there is an initial draft of those regulations, and a reasonable goal, barring unforeseen circumstances, should be presentation of the draft at the November meeting with a recommendation that a hearing be set before the end of the year.

Proposed regulations to delegate program and course approvals to COMDA's Executive Officer and Dental Board's Executive Officer

COMDA restated its request to the Dental Board regarding approval of these regulations, utilizing revised text that clarified the process conferring authority to evaluate programs and courses and resulting recommendations upon the COMDA EO and conferring approval as recommended by COMDA upon the Board's EO.

**8. Future agenda items and issues of interest**

- Strategic planning orientation

**9. Additional public comments**

**10. Adjournment**

The next meeting was announced for Monday, November 13, 2006 in Sacramento. As there was no further business, the Committee adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Prepared by Nan Russell and Elizabeth Ware  
Submitted to the Committee for approval at its November 13, 2006 meeting.

APPROVED:

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Shanda Wallace, RDH  
Chairperson, Committee on Dental Auxiliaries